

**R. Scott Palmer**

Scott Palmer, a graduate of the University of Michigan and a 1976 honors graduate of the University of Miami School of Law, began his career as an assistant state attorney in Orlando, Florida. From 1976 to 1979, he served as a misdemeanor and felony trial attorney as well as a legal advisor to the Organized Crime Strike Force. In 1980, Mr. Palmer was appointed chief field counsel for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and later became director of executive investigations, responsible for the security of Florida's governor and internal affairs at the Department of Law Enforcement. In 1982, then-Gov. Bob Graham appointed him chief prosecutor of the Statewide Grand Jury, a post he held until 1986. After two years in private practice, Mr. Palmer was appointed an assistant attorney general for the Antitrust Section of the Economics Crimes Litigation Unit, handling all major antitrust litigation for Florida, including trials.

Mr. Palmer has continued to represent Florida since joining Berman DeValerio's West Palm Beach office in 1997. He is a member of the Florida Bar and the bars of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Florida. A certified Circuit Court mediator, he has authored a law review article on statewide prosecution and a chapter on unfair trade practices in Matthew Bender's "Florida Forms of Jury Instruction." In addition, Mr. Palmer has taught litigation skills at the Florida State University College of Law and has studied antitrust law under Philip Areeda at Harvard Law School.

## ASSOCIATES

### Boston Office

#### **Patrick T. Egan**

Patrick T. Egan received a B.A. in Political Science, *cum laude*, from Providence College in 1993. In 1997, Mr. Egan graduated *cum laude* from Suffolk University Law School. Mr. Egan served on the editorial board of the *Suffolk University Law Review* and authored a Note entitled: "Virtual Community Standards: Should Obscenity Law Recognize the Contemporary Community Standard of Cyberspace," 30 *Suffolk University Law Review* 117 (1996). Mr. Egan was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 1997, the Connecticut Bar in 1998 and the New York Bar in 1999.

Mr. Egan came to the firm from the U.S. Department of Labor, where he served as an attorney advisor with the Office of Administrative Law Judges. He became associated with the firm in 1999 and focuses on securities litigation.

#### **Deborah Gale Evans**

Deborah Gale Evans graduated from Emory University in 1989 and the Boston University School of Law in 1995, where she was an Edward F. Hennessey Scholar. Ms. Evans was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 1995. She is also admitted to practice in Georgia and New York, and in the U.S Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh and Eleventh Circuits.

Prior to joining Berman DeValerio in 2003, Ms. Evans was a litigation associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in Boston. She also was an associate at Alston & Bird LLP in Atlanta. At both firms, she focused her practice on securities class actions.

#### **N. Nancy Ghabai**

N. Nancy Ghabai earned a B.A. in Political Science and American Literature from the University of Vermont in 1995. She graduated *cum laude* from Suffolk University Law School in 1999. While at Suffolk, Ms. Ghabai served on the editorial board of the *Suffolk Transnational Law Review*. She was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1999 and the Massachusetts bar in 2000. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Ghabai was an associate with the Philadelphia firm of Stradley, Ronon, Stevens & Young, LLP, where she practiced business litigation. She became associated with the firm in 2000 and focuses her practice on securities litigation.

#### **Shannon L. Hopkins**

Shannon L. Hopkins received a B.A. with a dual concentration in Accounting and Finance, *cum laude*, from Bryant College in 1995. In 2003, she graduated, *magna cum laude*, from Suffolk University Law School. While at Suffolk, Ms. Hopkins served as Vice Magister of the Phi Delta Phi Honors Fraternity and was a staff member of the *Journal of High Technology Law*, during which time she authored a note entitled,

“Cybercrime Convention: A Positive Beginning to a Long Road Ahead,” 2 *J. High Tech. L.* 101 (2003). Ms. Hopkins was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 2003.

Prior to joining Berman DeValerio, Ms. Hopkins was an accounting manager at Genuity, Inc. Ms. Hopkins is also a Certified Public Accountant and worked as an auditor at a major public accounting firm before becoming an attorney. Ms. Hopkins focuses her practice on securities litigation.

**Joseph C. Merschman**

Joseph C. Merschman earned a BBA in Accounting in 1998 from the University of Iowa. In 2001, Mr. Merschman graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law, where he was articles editor for the *Connecticut Law Review*. Mr. Merschman was admitted to the Massachusetts and Connecticut Bars in 2002.

Prior to joining Berman DeValerio in 2003, Mr. Merschman was a law clerk for the Honorable Judge Richard Roberts in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Mr. Merschman is also a former law clerk of Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Christine Vertefeuille and a summer/fall associate at the law firm of Rogin, Nassau, Caplan, Lassman & Hirtle, LLC.

**Steven D. Morris**

Steven D. Morris graduated, *cum laude*, from the University of Massachusetts in 1994 with a B.A. in Legal Studies and spent a year abroad studying at the University of Kent, England. In 1999, Mr. Morris received a J.D. from Boston University School of Law, *cum laude*. While at law school, he was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Science and Technology Law*, an Edward F. Hennessey Scholar, and received the Dean’s Award in Labor Law. Mr. Morris was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 1999.

Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Morris was a corporate associate in the business department of Brown Rudnick Freed & Gesmer, where he ensured securities compliance and participated in public offerings and mergers and acquisitions.

**Julie A. Richmond**

Julie A. Richmond graduated *magna cum laude* from Tufts University in 1995 with a B.A. in Economics. In 1998, Ms. Richmond received her J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law, *summa cum laude*, where she served as an Articles Editor on the American University Law Review. Ms. Richmond has been a member of the Massachusetts Bar since 1998 and was admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts in 1999.

Prior to joining Berman DeValerio Pease Tabacco Burt & Pucillo, Ms. Richmond practiced securities litigation and corporate law at Goodwin Procter LLP. She focuses her activities in the firm’s securities litigation practice.

**Todd A. Seaver**

Todd A. Seaver graduated *magna cum laude* from Boston University in 1994 with a B.A. in International Relations. He earned a M.Sc. from the London School of Economics in 1995 and graduated *cum laude* from the American University Washington College of Law in 1999. While in law school, Mr. Seaver worked as a law clerk at the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition, as a judicial extern for the Honorable Ricardo M. Urbina of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and as a law clerk in the antitrust practice group in the law firm Morgan, Lewis & Bockius.

Mr. Seaver was admitted to the New Hampshire Bar in 1999 and to the Massachusetts Bar in 2000, and is a member of the American Bar Association's Antitrust Section. Mr. Seaver joined the firm in 2000 and focuses his practice on both antitrust litigation and securities litigation.

**Nicole R. Starr**

Nicole R. Starr earned a B.A., *magna cum laude*, in Political Science and a minor in Spanish in 1999 from Providence College. In 2002, Ms. Starr graduated, *summa cum laude*, from Suffolk University Law School, where she served as an Associate Production Editor for the *Suffolk University Law Review* and authored an article entitled: "The Curtailment of the Doctrine of Equivalents: Courts Emphasize the Public Notice Function of Patent Claims," 35 *Suffolk U.L. Rev.* 323 (2001). While at law school, Ms. Starr received the Best Brief and Best Oral Advocate Award in the First Year Legal Practice Skills Program and the Jurisprudence Award for Civil Procedure and Commercial Paper. In 2001, Ms. Starr was a summer associate at the Boston firm of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C., where she researched and prepared memoranda on a variety of legal matters, including litigation, corporate, real estate, and trusts and estates issues. Ms. Starr was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 2002.

Ms. Starr joined Berman DeValerio Pease Tabacco Burt & Pucillo in 2002 and focuses her practice on securities litigation.

**Bryan A. Wood**

Bryan A. Wood graduated, *cum laude*, from the University of Massachusetts in 1991 with a B.A. in Sociology. In 1995, he earned an M.S., *summa cum laude*, in Public Policy from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University and graduated, *cum laude*, from the Temple University School of Law in 1998. While at law school, Mr. Wood was the Managing Editor of the *Temple Law Review* and a board member of the Temple Law Moot Court Honor Society. Mr. Wood was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1998 and the Massachusetts bar in 2001. He was also admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Districts of Pennsylvania in 1998, the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts in 2001, and the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in 1998. Mr. Wood is a member of the Boston and American bar associations.

Prior to joining Berman DeValerio Pease Tabacco Burt & Pucillo, Mr. Wood was a litigation associate at both Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads in Philadelphia, and Schnader Harrison Goldstein & Manello in Boston, where he represented corporations and directors in shareholder and other class action lawsuits as well as businesses and municipalities in general contract and employment discrimination cases. Mr. Wood focuses his activities in the firm's securities litigation practice.

### **San Francisco Office**

#### **Julie J. Bai**

Julie J. Bai earned a B.S. in Economics and a minor in Japanese in 1995 from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business. In 2003, Ms. Bai received her J.D. from the University of California, Davis, School of Law. While in law school, Ms. Bai worked on family law matters with low-income victims of domestic violence at the Family Protection Clinic in Woodland, California. Ms. Bai was admitted to the California Bar in 2003. She is a member of the American Bar Association.

Ms. Bai is also a Certified Public Accountant and has worked as a business assurance associate and senior tax accountant at two major public accounting firms. Ms. Bai joined Berman DeValerio as an associate in 2004.

#### **Elizabeth C. Guarnieri**

Elizabeth C. Guarnieri graduated from Rider University in 1995 with a B.A. in Political Science. In 1998, she received her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law. She is a member in good standing of the bars of California, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Ms. Guarnieri serves on the Board of Directors for the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute. She is also a member of the American Bar Association, the California Bar Association, and the National Lawyers Guild.

Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Guarnieri was associated with the law firm Lexington Law Group, where her practice focused on complex civil litigation. She concentrates her activities in the firm's securities fraud and antitrust litigation practices.

#### **Christine Pedigo**

Christine Pedigo earned a B.A., *magna cum laude*, in English literature from San Francisco State University in 1997. In 2000, Ms. Pedigo graduated with highest honors in immigration and Internet law from the University of California School of Law at Davis, where she was editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy*. While in law school, Ms. Pedigo authored articles entitled: "The Portrayal of the Legal System in Young Adult Literature," 2 *Davis J. of Juv. L & Pol'y* 17 (1998) and "Protecting Students' Fourth Amendment Rights: Alternatives to School Mandated Urinalysis," 4 *Davis J. of Juv. L & Pol'y* 175 (2000). Ms. Pedigo also served as an extern to Judge Garland E. Burrell of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California and

was a civil law clerk in the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of California. Ms. Pedigo was admitted to the California Bar in 2000.

Prior to joining Berman DeValerio Pease Tabacco Burt & Pucillo in 2003, Ms. Pedigo was an associate with The Furth Firm and with the law firm of Bowles & Verna.

**Karen Rosenthal**

Karen Rosenthal graduated from highest honors and Phi Beta Kappa distinctions from the University of California at Berkeley in 1996, earning a B.A. in Development Studies. In 2000, she received a J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California at Berkeley. During law school, she served as Publishing Editor of the California Law Review and was a member of the Moot Court Board.

Prior to joining Berman DeValerio Pease Tabacco Burt & Pucillo, she was associated with the law firm Plageman, Lund & Miller, where her practice focused on general litigation and estate planning. She was admitted to the California Bar in 2000. Her practices include securities fraud and antitrust litigation.

**Michael W. Stocker**

Michael W. Stocker graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1989 with a B.A. with a Distinction in Oriental Languages. In 1995, he received his J.D. from University of California, Hastings College of the Law. While in law school, he served as judicial extern to U.S. Magistrate Judge (now District Judge) Phyllis Hamilton. In 2000 he was awarded a Master of Criminology degree from the Law Faculty of the University of Sydney.

Prior to joining Berman DeValerio, Mr. Stocker served as a staff attorney in the civil and motions divisions of the Office of the Staff Attorneys at the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He also served as an adjunct instructor of legal writing and research and moot court at Hastings College of the Law. From 2000 to August of 2003 Mr. Stocker was associated with the firm of Zelle, Hofmann, Voelbel, Mason, and Gette LLP, where he specialized in commercial litigation.

**Of Counsel**

**Richard R. Wiebe**

Richard R. Wiebe, Of Counsel to the San Francisco office, received a B.A. from Yale College and a J.D. from the School of Law (Boalt Hall) at the University of California, Berkeley. He was admitted to the California Bar in 1985. In addition to his securities litigation work, Mr. Wiebe focuses his practice on intellectual property, First Amendment and environmental law issues.

Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Wiebe was a permanent judicial staff attorney for California Supreme Court Justice Joyce Kennard from 1994 to 2000, writing judicial opinions in the full range of civil and criminal cases pending before the Court. He was an associate at

Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison in San Francisco from 1988 to 1994 and, prior to that, a supervising attorney in the Office of Staff Attorneys of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Mr. Wiebe also has taught and written extensively.

### **West Palm Beach Office**

#### **Manuel J. Dominguez**

Manuel Dominguez graduated with honors from the Florida State University Law School in 1995 and was a member of the *Transnational Journal of Law and Policy*. He received his undergraduate degree from Florida International University in 1991. Mr. Dominguez is admitted to practice law in the State of Florida as well as the United States District Courts for the Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Florida.

Mr. Dominguez served as an assistant attorney general with the State of Florida from 1995 to 1997 in the Department of Economic Crimes. He participated in the prosecution and investigation of corporations and business entities for violations of Florida's RICO statute, Florida's antitrust statute and Florida's Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act. In private practice from 1997 through 2000 Mr. Dominguez litigated and tried cases involving Florida's Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act, the Florida Consumer Collection Practices Act, Federal Debt Collection Practices Act, and Truth In Lending.

#### **Jay W. Eng**

Jay W. Eng graduated from Florida State University in 1994 with a B.S. in Economics. In 1998, he graduated from Tulane Law School with a J.D. and certificate of specialization in maritime law. He was awarded the book award for the top grade in Contracts II – the Uniform Commercial Code. He also served as a Notes and Comments Editor to the *Tulane Maritime Law Journal* and authored a note entitled, "The 'Something More' Requirement under Section 5(b) of the Longshore Act: Singleton v. Guangzhou Ocean Shipping Co.," 21 Tul. M. L.J. 205 (1996). Jay is a member of the Florida Bar, the Southern District of Florida, Middle District of Florida, Northern District of Florida, and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Prior to joining the firm, Jay was a commercial litigation associate at a major Florida law firm. He also served a judicial law clerk to Magistrate Judge Ann E. Vitunac, United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and as a trial court law clerk to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court in and for the State of Florida.

#### **Marc J. Greenspon**

Marc J. Greenspon graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1999 with a B.A. in Political Science and received a J.D. from Nova Southeastern University in 2002. Mr. Greenspon authored an article entitled, *Securities Arbitration: Bankrupt, Bothered & Bewildered*, 7 STAN. J.L. BUS. & FIN. 131 (2002). He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2002. In 2003, he received an LL.M. in Securities & Financial Regulation at Georgetown University Law Center. He joined Berman DeValerio that same year.

**Anne F. Jacobs**

Anne Jacobs was admitted to the New York Bar and to the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York in 1987, and to the Florida Bar in 1995. She graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa upon earning her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1983. She received her J.D. in 1986 from New York University School of Law, where she was an articles editor on the Annual Survey of American Law and authored an article on prisoner's rights. During and after law school, she served as a law clerk in the Southern District of New York, the District of New Jersey, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Ms. Jacobs then worked as a research and teaching associate at the University of Pennsylvania, where she co-authored a law review article on slavery jurisprudence. From 1988 to 1991, she was a litigation associate with a major New York law firm, where she concentrated in the areas of complex commercial litigation and corporate law. Upon moving to Tallahassee, Florida, she engaged in state and federal death penalty litigation and then served as co-director of an agency representing battered women seeking executive clemency. She then served as an adjunct professor at St. Thomas University Law School and, just prior to joining the firm, as a career staff attorney at the Fourth District Court of Appeal in West Palm Beach, Florida.

## OTHER KEY PERSONNEL

### **Christopher A. Szechenyi, Director of Investigations**

Christopher A. Szechenyi is the Firm's director of investigations. Prior to joining the firm, he worked for 60 Minutes as a Paris-based producer, investigating stories all over the world for correspondent Mike Wallace. He also has conducted investigations for Dateline NBC, A&E, and the Discovery Channel and he has contributed stories to the New Yorker magazine and the Boston Globe. During his 25 years in journalism, he received more than two dozen journalism awards, including two regional Emmys and national recognition from Investigative Reporters and Editors. Among other things, he has exposed a pattern of deadly safety violations on a giant construction project, uncovered design flaws in defibrillators and, most recently, interviewed Osama Bin Laden's half-brother. He earned a B.A. in journalism from Lehigh University in 1975.

### **Harriett Gibbs, Investigative Researcher**

An investigative researcher, Harriett Gibbs is responsible for conducting database research and assisting the director of investigations. Prior to joining the firm in 2002, she was an investigator with the Middlesex County (Massachusetts) Public Defender's Office. She also worked as a correctional officer at the Chittenden County Regional Correctional Facility in Shelburne, Vermont. Ms. Gibbs earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont in 1995.

### **Jeannine M. Scarsciotti, Chief Paralegal**

Jeannine M. Scarsciotti is Berman DeValerio's senior paralegal and, as such, coordinates portfolio monitoring and loss calculation for institutional clients. Ms. Scarsciotti joined the Firm as a paralegal in 1995. Ms. Scarsciotti attended Bentley College, where she graduated, *summa cum laude*, in 1995. She earned a B.S. in Professional Studies and an ABA-Accredited Certificate of Paralegal Studies.

### **Petra Bouyea, Forensic Accountant**

Petra Bouyea is the Firm's forensic accountant. Ms. Bouyea received her M.B.A. with a concentration in Accounting from Boston University in 1995 and has been a Certified Public Accountant since 1996. Prior to joining the Firm, she worked at a Big Five firm for six years, including one year as an Audit Manager. She also worked in the accounting department of AskJeeves, an Internet search engine and web solutions company. Since joining the Firm, she has investigated fraudulent accounting practices at numerous companies, including Xerox and Elan Pharmaceuticals.

### **Robert I. Francis, Forensic Accountant**

Robert I. Francis graduated from Bentley College with a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy and received a Masters in Business Administration from Northeastern University. Mr. Francis is a Certified Public Accountant. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Massachusetts Society of CPAs, and the East Coast Committee of the National Investment Company Service Association (NICSA).

Mr. Francis has an extensive accounting background. He has worked as an audit senior manager specializing in financial services at KPMG Peat Marwick and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, and served as vice president for Global Accounting Policy/External Reporting for State Street Corporation. Mr. Francis also has experience as an independent consultant, providing accounting support services related to compliance requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

## **OFFICES**

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